[5th November 1952

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" 'Various allowances' என்பதில் பர்னிசர் அலவன்ஸ் என்றும், பேட்டா அலவன்ஸ் என்றும் gazetted ஆபிசர் களுக்குத் தரப்படுகிறதா ? அப்படித் தரப்படுமானால், அது அவசியமா ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" எனக்குத் தெரிந்தவரையில் பர்னிசர் அலவன்ஸ் ஒருவருக்கும் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Answering a former supplementary question, the Hon. the Minister for Finance said that it would be difficult to reduce the salaries. When do this Government propose to effect all round retrenchment?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know whether my Friend suggests retrenchment or cut in pay. If it is cut in pay, we are actively considering the question."

Alleged death of Rajagopal Naidu in Police lock-up.

* 58 Q.—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether a representation, dated 15th July 1952, from Srimathi N. Govindammal of Periyakuppam village in Tiruvallur taluk was received by the Government complaining about the death of her husband in Police lock-up at Katpadi Police Station on 2nd June 1952; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Prior to this representation the Additional District Magistrate, North Arcot, held an inquest over the death with reference to the Standing Orders on the subject. A copy of his Proceedings[a] is laid on the table of the House showing conclusively that the death was due to natural causes. On the face of it there was ground for some suspicion. I therefore went through the papers evidence recorded, post-mortem certificate and Chemical Examiner's certificate and satisfied myself that the Additional District Magistrate's conclusions were fully justified."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I ask whether the Hon. the Chief Minister is aware that in the extract of the death report the entries as regards the cause of death and the place of death are different from what are stated in the answer. Here is a certified death report extract in Tamil and I would ask my Friend Mr. Nagarajan to read it."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Before it is read, may I submit that it is no use? A question has been asked and I have now answered it. To read an extract from a village munsif's register is neither an answer to my answer nor is it of any use."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" For the Tahsildar, somebody has signed the extract."

[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 275–276 infra.

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Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—" It cannot be disposed of in such an easy way. In the paper placed on the table of the House . . . "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" On a point of order, Sir. Information has been asked of me about a death. I have given the result of an inquest held by a Magistrate, a First-class Magistrate, of the Division. I do not think we should proceed with a further enquiry now, reading from a village munsif's report."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister whether he can reconcile what he has read out with the entry in the village munsif's register regarding this death (a certified copy of which is available here) stating that the death was due to the beating by the Police at the police station?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" If the Leader of the Opposition examines closely what the extract referred to is, he will find that it is an extract, which is certified to be a true copy. That is number one. That it is a true copy, I do not deny. But true copy of what? It is a true copy of the entry which the village official makes in his register as soon as any death takes place and is reported to him, whether it is due to natural causes—cholera or small-pox—or anything. The family which is responsible to give the information goes to the village official and gives the information. The village munsif has no authority to change the information. He must write what is told him. It is of no use to compare that with a magisterial enquiry."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I draw the attention of the Hon. the Chief Minister to the fact that in the paper laid on the table of the House, it is written that the cause of death is not known? But the answer read by the Chief Minister was that death was due to natural causes whereas in the certified extract of the village munsif's report, it is stated that death was due to beating by the Police. I am asking the Chief Minister how he will be able to reconcile these various discrepancies and whether he believes that it is likely that a village munsif is capable of writing a report that the death was due to beating by the Police unless it was true."

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" I am sorry that my Friend is carrying on a discussion over a definite conclusion arrived at an inquest held by an Additional First-class Magistrate of the district. His proceedings I have placed on the table of this House. The proceedings are the proceedings of the First-class Joint Magistrate of the district. He says it was due to natural causes. The particular natural causes was not known and it makes no difference whatsoever. I wish he had read the proceedings and then put questions. I would ask him to read the whole of the proceedings."